



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PRODUCTION – NOVEMBER 2015

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on November 1 conditions, **sugarbeet** production in Montana is forecast at 1.432 million tons, down slightly from the 1.434 million tons produced in 2014, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Growers expect to harvest 43,800 acres this year, compared with 44,400 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 32.7 tons per acre, up 1.7 tons per acre from the October 1 forecast and up from last year's yield of 32.3 tons per acre. As of November 1, Montana's sugarbeet harvest was estimated at 87 percent complete, compared with 97 percent last year and the 5-year average of 95 percent.

Lentil production for 2015 is estimated to be 2.53 million hundredweight, up 44 percent from last year. Area harvested is forecast at 220,000 acres, up 101,000 acres from 2014. Yield is estimated to be 1,150 pounds per acre, down 330 pounds per acre from last year.

Montana **dry edible pea** production, forecast at 9.49 million hundredweight, is up 5 percent from last year. Acres harvested are estimated at 575,000, up 14 percent from 2014. Yield is expected to be 1,650 pounds per acre, down 150 pounds per acre from last year.

Austrian winter pea production in Montana for 2015 is estimated to be 90,000 hundredweight, up 29 percent from last year. Acres harvested in 2015 are estimated at 12,000, up 5,000 acres from last year. Yield, at 750 pounds per acre, is down 250 pounds per acre from last year.

Fall potato growers in Montana produced an estimated 3.38 million hundredweight of potatoes this year, down 7 percent from last year's crop. Average yield, at 310 hundredweight per acre, decreased 10 hundredweight per acre from last year. The harvested area, estimated at 10,900 acres, is down from the 11,300 acres harvested last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2015 crop year is forecast at 35.2 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 12 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.14 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but down slightly from 2014. Expected yield is forecast at 30.8 tons per acre, an increase of 0.4 ton from the previous forecast and up 3.4 tons from last year.

Lentil production is forecast at 5.32 million cwt, up 58 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 475,000 acres, up 83 percent from the previous year. Average yield is expected to be 1,121 pounds per acre, down 179 pounds from 2014.

Production of **dry edible peas** is forecast at 19.6 million cwt, up 14 percent from last year. Planted area, at 1.14 million acres, and harvested area, at 1.10 million acres, increased by 22 percent and 23 percent, respectively. Average yield is expected to be 1,772 pounds per acre, down 135 pounds from 2014.

Planted area of **Austrian winter peas** is estimated at 33,000 acres, up 38 percent from a year ago. Area harvested is expected to total 27,000 acres, up 61 percent from 2014. Yield, at 1,015 pounds per acre, is down 324 pounds from a year ago.

Production of **fall potatoes** for 2015 is forecast at 409 million cwt, up 1 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 946,000 acres, is up 2 percent from the previous year. The average yield forecast, at 432 cwt per acre, is down 2 cwt from last year's yield.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.

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